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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,880	10/21/2003	Takahiro Nishi	2003_1494A	2774

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

KOSTAK, VICTOR R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/688,880	Applicant(s) NISHI, TAKAHIRO	
	Examiner Victor R. Kostak	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/08/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Note MPEP 606.01.
2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
3. The drawings are objected to because Fig. 2 must be labeled as "Prior Art" so referred to in the specification.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 13 recites a computer-readable medium on which a signal is stored. A description of the signal is given as to how the signal was generated before being stored on the medium. In view MPEP §2106.01 and in light of the more recent Official Guidelines of 10/26/05, the claim is non-statutory because it recites non-functional material (picture data) that is not described as an accessible code/signal to be transformed into a useful, concrete and tangible product, or for performing actual functions (pages 52-57 of the Guidelines).

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

OR

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cok.

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The system of Cok stores on a disk by a recording device 80 (Fig. 6) a coded progressive video signal which was formed by sampling frames at predetermined unequal intervals (i.e. variable rates selected from 24, 32 and 48 Hz).

6. Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al.

The system of Suzuki (noting particularly Figs. 2, 9 and 10) involves performing inverse telecine conversion based first on identifying the initial format of a progressive input signal VIN (Fig. 2). Upon detection of the input signal format (using pattern detector 110 and additional associated elements), address manager 122 applies frame sampling to memory 102 and reads out the written-in video signal using a first method (and rate) or a second method (and rate), based upon a identification of an original film (cinema) format or an NTSC (video) format (e.g. sections [0006] and [0069] – [0072]). After the format is identified, a coding process is performed (stage 20), thereby meeting claims 1 and 12.

As for claims 2 and 11, the frame sampling/selection of the first or second method is carried out based on the pattern analysis result in identifying the cinema or video signal format (Figs. 9, 10).

Claim 3 describes standard pull-down process (film-to-video conversion), which Suzuki includes (e.g. section [0011]), and the first sampling method involves one of the two frames is eliminated (to remove redundant frames) which results in equal sampling intervals.

As for claim 4, the sampling of the first method is performed at equal intervals involving the base frame rate of 24 Hz (the standard film/cinema rate).

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Claim 5 describes the standard telecine formatting involving pull-down (i.e. one frame duplication per five given frames of original NTSC format), which is progressive and which Suzuki discloses (e.g. section [0002]). The first frame sampling method therefore involves uneven sampling due to the duplicate frame.

Regarding claims 6-8, Suzuki discloses the different recited possibilities of telecine and inverse telecine frame rate sampling (Figs. 3-8).

As for claim 9, stage 110 (and associated elements) judge whether each input progressive frame of signals VIN was originally a cinema signal or an NTSC signal.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al.

Suzuki does not disclose the exact logic elements or hardware arrangement specific to the pattern detector 110, instead using a state machine and flow chart (Fig. 9 and 10), which steps include similarity detection (by preliminary stages 106 and 108) which subsequent duplicate frame matching and pattern (i.e. cycle) recognition. Nonetheless, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art include any initial storage using a delay (Suzuki does in fact include frame memory 102 in the frame sampling selection/adjustment) which would have been useful in first determining frame differences by stages 106 and 108.

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8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor R. Kostak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7348.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 6:30am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

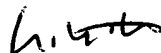
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

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(571) 273-8300

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 308-HELP.



Victor R. Kostak
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622

VRK